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The Last Tears

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That was the night of a dreadful storm in Bangladesh. All people were going to their home or safe place quickly. A bus was running from Chittagong to Dhaka. There were hardly any vehicles on the road. Only two couples were in that bus. At that stormy night they thought they should do together anything for their betterment. That was the ever seen darkest night for the country. The sky was thundering with the shaft of lightning after every one minute.

The first couple was too young to be a married couple. But the second couple seemed to be a married couple. Asif and Zeenat made the first couple who were 24 and 20 years old respectively. And the members of second couple were Tania and Rahul who were at the age of 24 and 27 correspondingly. And the bus members were the driver and a supervisor. All were being anxious more and more seeing the fall down condition of the storm. Suddenly the storm turned against their bus. The driver and a supervisor became frightened. They tried to stop the bus. But they found no suitable place to do that. They had been acquainted one another. And from this acquaintance they came to know that Asif and Tania completed their graduation from the same University. Rahul completed his L.L.M. and Zeenat is reading in a private University in the department of English. Asif and Zeenat were not married actually. They came across each other on that bus for the first time and were staying together doing friendly attitude. The strongest thunder-storm in the history of Bangladesh was already started. It attacked the southern part of the country greatly. The supervisor was hearing the news on radio carefully and telling that to the driver after every five minutes.

On the other part Tania and Rahul were not married also. They were coming after completing their engagement ceremony on that day before this night. The sky thundered abruptly making a great sound and Zeenat getting frightened, hugged Asif for a while. Everyone laughed but that joy did not remain for long time interrupted by the driver's fearful voice. He stopped the bus beside a forest like place where there was a bungalow covering some big trees.

"Everyone get down from the bus. Now...! And go to that bungalow. I'll take the bus to a safe place." He called the supervisor to stay with him.

The only four passengers got down and started running towards that Bungalow. When they reached there, they found nobody. Perhaps the caretaker went to his own house to stay with

his family. They took shelter on the balcony. But there was heavy blow of wind. It rained cats and dogs. All on a sudden, Asif jumped over the boundary of the balcony from its left side under which there were some stones. He took two stones and came back. He hit on the lock of the door for several times. But he could not open that. Zeenat was having fear thinking the next few hours and Tania remained silent from the very beginning. Asif noticed that but could not say anything before her future life partner. Then Rahul tried and it was opened within few minutes. All of them entered into the room. There was only one big room having three beds. It was furnished also. They became fresh wearing new dress from their bags. It was 12:38 am. All of them were tired. Rahul and Asif took a bed each of them. And Tania and Zeenat took the rest bed which was bigger than others. All were asleep within half an hour. But after two hours Asif heard a sound of weeping. As his sleep was so light from before, he got up and found Tania nowhere in the room. He discovered her weeping and sitting on the floor of the balcony. He then asked the reason of her crying. Tania was silent. Asif touched his head and asked, "What's happened? Tell me." Tania looked at Asif with a great surprise. There were tears dropping from her eyes.

Suddenly she caught Asif's collar and said, "Why didn't you take me? Why didn't you marry me? Why couldn't we do that? Why did you come late? Why? How I will lead my entire life without you?"

She was weeping more and more. Asif tried to make her understand. But she was going to be crazy. In point of fact, Asif was Tania's Classmate. They were good friends. But when Tania's parents fixed the date of her engagement ceremony she thought that she only loves Asif. And only he can be her soul partner. So, she called Asif to their house to marry her if he wants. Asif came but could not stop the engagement finally because it was done before his coming. So Tania was upset. They were whispering.

Tania was weeping and dropping tears greatly. Asif tried to control the situation. He promised Tania to be her friend eternally. But Tania didn't want to understand anything. Abruptly she lipped Asif without saying any words. Asif did not stop her. She hugged Tania and wept without making any sound. After a few minutes Tania started weeping again. By this time the weather became calm.

Asif found Rahul and Zeenat in a deep sleep. He went away from the bungalow with Tania. They wandered through the passage from the bungalow to the deep forest. They found two snakes in a stream near the forest playing joyfully. But hearing a thunderous sound from the sky one was going to the north side, and other was through the southern side. Seeing this, Tania started crying again. She again accused Asif for coming late. They found squirrels

running to and fro from one tree to another. That was silent place and also charming. They had ever seen any beauty like that scenery. The sky, the trees and small hills, not very far from there, were looking attractive. Asif was not so emotional like Tania. But Tania sometimes wept after every few minutes. It was about 4:30 am. The dawn was ahead. They found a light in a hut near them. They were curious about a hut in the middle of a forest. They went near it and found an old man with a nice face. He was sitting in a corner of the hut. Seeing them he asked about them. The man seemed good to them. They told everything to him.

He told that, "This is the reality. Thus dreams are broken. But God does nothing seeing this. I have been living here for thirty years after losing my beloved such a way." Asif and Tania became more curious. "I couldn't give bite on my apple in time. I thought it was mine and I would eat later. I didn't even think that anyone can take a bite at anytime. But it was done finally. I could not have made her my soul partner."

Suddenly a sound was heard outside the hut as someone overheard them. They came out running but found nothing but a shadow of someone in a faint light running away. Tania became afraid of that sound. Asif consoled her. They started their walk to the bungalow. On the way back Tania caught Asif's hand.

She said to him, "May I hug you for the last time?"

Asif felt an acute pain inside his heart for the first time. He fondled her with kisses.

They came back to the bungalow at 5 am. They found Rahul asleep like before. Zeenat was on her bed. They got ready to start their journey to Dhaka. They found a caretaker coming towards them. They gave some money to him and begged pardon for breaking the lock. The caretaker understood and showed them the way to nearest bus stoppage. Asif went for tickets but got two for that bus. He gave them to Rahul and Tania. They got into the bus up. The bus started to move slowly. Asif felt something inside his heart. Something was being happened. Tania looked at Asif for the last time. Her eyes were full of tears but could not drop. The bus started to run and Tania could not help dropping the last tears. Within a few seconds Tania was out of Asif's sight. Asif seemed to have the complete loneliness of the universe inside his heart. His eyes were full of tears also.

At that time Zeenat kept her right hand upon Asif's left shoulder. Her eyes were full of tears too. She then said to Asif, "You couldn't bite on your apple timely indeed too." Asif looked at her with a great surprise and burst into tears inside her arms.